



Community Connection

News and events for citizens of Sedona

June 2005

www.SedonaAZ.gov

Volume 1, Issue 2

Sedona Transit System Moves Forward

Transit, which provides mobility options to the general public, is one important step in a comprehensive system of circulation improvements. At least seven past studies have included recommendations regarding transit in Sedona and the region. These studies focused on a broad vision including park and ride lots at community “gateways” and transit services linking Oak Creek Canyon, the Village of Oak Creek, West Sedona and Cottonwood. However, balancing this vision with the reality of the associated costs and available resources was a significant challenge.

traffic congestion, improved access to jobs and serve transit-dependent riders near the established routes.

The Future

One year from now, the Sedona Roadrunner should be running! There are still many tasks to ensure a successful “launch” by spring of 2006. These include:

- Implementing the marketing plan
- Ordering vehicles and equipment
- Approving agreements to administer the system
- Approving contracts to operate the system
- Building transit stops
- Coordinating with Uptown and SR 179 construction projects

Future phases would add trolleys and provide service to the Village of Oak Creek, West Sedona and Oak Creek Canyon. The City Council will consider launching these phases only if key funding thresholds can be met and ridership goals are realized in phase one.



A Phased Approach

In October 2003, the City entered into an Intergovernmental Agreement with Coconino County to address outstanding feasibility issues and help the City Council make an informed decision on pursuing a transit system. Since Coconino County operates the highly successful Mountain Line Transit system for the City of Flagstaff, their expertise, experience and staff have been utilized to prepare an implementation plan and provide assistance in setting up a Sedona transit system.

In June 2004, the City Council approved the first phase of a three-phase approach to transit. This incremental approach creates a more manageable way to implement transit with phase one providing the most cost-effective, fiscally responsible and highest quality service that can move the most people in the most congested part of the City. The first phase will provide several community benefits including convenient business access, reduced

Sedona Transit Phase One Highlights:

- Service start-up - Spring 2006.
- Circulator - two buses or trolleys running continuously between Uptown and the Hillside Shops on SR 179.
- Circulator frequency - 8 to 10 minutes.
- Cottonwood to Sedona Commuter Service - morning and evening transit service between Cottonwood and Sedona using the same two vehicles.
- Fares - Circulator is free. Cottonwood Commuter is \$2 per trip or \$40 per month.

Straight Shootin' with Mayor Pud Colquitt



Quinn and Mayor Colquitt

Over the past year, the City Council has been extremely proactive in reaching out to the community. As Mayor, I have initiated the "Mayor's Listeners" which are sessions with various groups, such as the Affinity Groups of the Chamber of Commerce, for the sole purpose of listening to their concerns and issues in an effort to enable them to better communicate with the City and vice versa. You talk and I listen.

The Mayor's Coffee Chats that I started six months ago have been extremely successful (see schedule). They have enabled people to come and speak personally with me or other council members in a relaxed atmosphere rather than a more formal City Council setting.

My pet project is the possible formation of a Trust/Foundation that would enable the City to accept land or monies to be used in the future for land acquisition, infrastructure, parks, or perhaps the construction of community oriented projects such as a community center. The monies or land could be earmarked for specific uses if so desired. City staff is continuing to research the possibility of such a Trust/Foundation.

I sincerely hope that you enjoy Community Connection. I especially hope that you take advantage of the opportunity of communicating with the Council and me at one of the occasions offered. If you have suggestions for future newsletter articles, contact Marie Brown at mbrown@SedonaAZ.gov or 282-3113.

Mayor's Coffee Chat Schedule

- ▶ New Frontiers Natural Marketplace
1420 W. Hwy 89A
Thursday, July 28
9:30 a.m. - 10:30 a.m.
- ▶ Weathervane Café
Dry Creek Road & W. Hwy 89A
Thursday, August 18
9:30 a.m. - 10:30 a.m.
- ▶ Ravenheart of Sedona
1370 W. Hwy 89A #12
Thursday, September 15
9:30 a.m. - 10:30 a.m.
- ▶ New Frontiers Natural Marketplace
1420 W. Hwy 89A
Thursday, October 20
9:30 a.m. - 10:30 a.m.
- ▶ Coffee Pot Restaurant
2050 W. Hwy 89A
Thursday, November 17
9:30 a.m. - 10:30 a.m.
- ▶ Weathervane Café
Dry Creek Road & W. Hwy 89A
Thursday, December 8
9:30 a.m. - 10:30 a.m.



Lights, Camera, Action!

One day when you are watching a commercial or a made-for-TV movie, you might recognize Coffee Pot or Snoopy rock in the background. Why? Because last

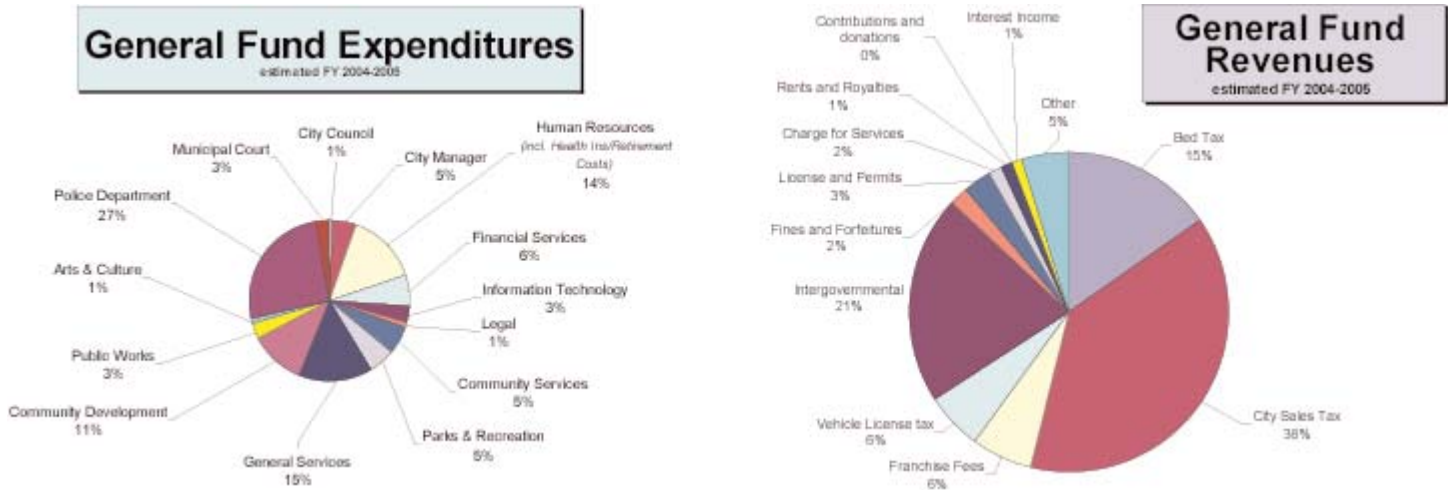
April the City Council approved funding for the Sedona-Oak Creek Canyon Chamber of Commerce to re-establish a Film Office in Sedona. The Chamber is the ideal organization to re-vitalize this office because it can provide filmmakers with in-depth knowledge of local service and business providers as well as provide prompt responses to requests for information about filming in the region. Sedona's film office will do everything from scouting locations to cutting through paperwork.

The primary responsibility of the film office is to attract film and video production to Sedona and grow the local film and video industry, recognizing its huge economic impact in job creation and its unparalleled public relations effects for the region. Once our region is selected for filming, the benefits can be enormous. The local economy will thrive with production teams staying in hotels, eating in restaurants, and using service businesses. Film scenes at Sedona locations will attract visitors who will see our area as a desirable site for vacation and relocation.

The Sedona Film Office's goal is to generate 80 production days in Sedona. It will target productions such as feature films, movies of the week, television series and episodes, commercials, and still photography, which includes magazines, catalogues and calendars.

City's Financial Overview

When you pay your property tax bill, you may have noticed that none of your property tax dollars go for City services **That is because the City of Sedona does not receive any revenues from property taxes.** The City's projected revenues in the General Fund for this fiscal year are \$9.1 million. These revenue sources and expenditures are shown below:



Other Funds utilized to provide various services to citizens include the Streets Fund, which utilizes state shared gas tax revenues to maintain the streets; the Capital Fund, which utilizes sales taxes to fund capital improvements; and the Wastewater Fund, which utilizes half of the 3 percent local sales taxes.

In addition to services such as police, parks & recreation programs, wastewater services, stormwater management, streets maintenance, landscaping maintenance, and planning services, the City also provides capital improvements. Key capital improvement projects this year included:

Parks & Recreation

- Completion of improvements to the Community Pool
- Purchase of property in Sedona West to provide for a critical neighborhood trail link
- Initiation of design of a creekwalk

Public Works

- Initiation of a study to review possible improvements to the Airport Road and Soldier Pass intersections on 89A
- Continuation of the Fire Hydrant installation program
- Completion of utility undergrounding on Cooks Hill
- Set aside of funds for strategic land acquisition

Wastewater

- Construction of sewer collection lines in Sedona Meadows
- Design of sewer collection lines in Chapel, Kachina, and Yavapino subdivisions

Police Department

- Improvements to radio coverage

As the City moves forward, the basic theme encompassed in the City Manager proposed 2005-2006 budget for City Council consideration is "Going back to basics in order to prepare for the City's future need". Some areas that will be focused on are how to maintain and improve upon public safety and infrastructure issues while maintaining the City's fiscally conservative approach. Due to this approach taken by the previous and current City Council, the City has been able to steadily improve services throughout the past eight years without increasing the local sales tax rate, sewer fees or adding a local property tax.



Driving in Roundabouts



Slow down upon approach. Roundabouts are typically designed for speeds of 15 to 20 miles per hour.



Be prepared to stop for traffic, bicycles and pedestrians as you approach and exit the roundabout.



Yield to your left before entering the roundabout. Wait for a gap in traffic and enter.



Enter the roundabout. Once inside, do not stop. Do not overtake vehicles slightly ahead of you because they may exit.



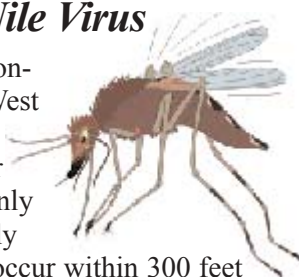
Look for your street sign. Exit the roundabout toward your destination. Remember to signal your intent to exit.

Visit these websites to learn more about driving roundabouts:
www.dot.state.az.us/CCPartnerships/Roundabouts/index.asp
 or www.scenic.179.com.



Protect Yourself From the West Nile Virus

You can make a difference in controlling mosquitoes that carry West Nile Virus. Did you know that mosquitoes need standing water in which to lay their eggs? It only takes three days for them to fully develop. Most mosquito bites occur within 300 feet of the breeding site. Here's how you can protect yourself and others:



- Eliminate mosquito-breeding sites in and around your home. Dump all standing water in wading pools, wheelbarrows, pots and other containers.
- Change the water in birdbaths, pet dishes and flowerpots at least twice a week. Unclog gutters where water might accumulate. Fix leaky faucets. Clean and chlorinate swimming pools, outdoor saunas and hot tubs.
- Peak mosquito biting hours are from dusk to dawn. Take extra care to use repellent on your skin and protective clothing during the evening and early morning hours.

A little common sense goes a long way to help lower the potential of West Nile Virus. For more information, visit www.hs.state.az.us.

How Food Preparation Businesses Can Prevent Sewer Spills

Sewer pipes get plugged with grease like our arteries plug with plaque. Food preparation businesses in Sedona are typically required to have grease traps. If these traps are not properly maintained, the result is often a sewer spill. The maintenance of these traps is important. Steps for food preparation businesses to follow:

1. Pump before the trap is half full of grease or if the grease layer is thicker than 11", whichever is less.
2. Pour liquid grease into grease containers.
3. Scrape plates, pots and pans over the garbage. Reduce food grinder use.
4. Drain sinks only when the water is 150° F or less.
5. Don't use products intended to liquefy grease.

For more information, call Jim Johnson at 204-2234 or visit www.oracwa.org/Pages/englishfogbrochure.

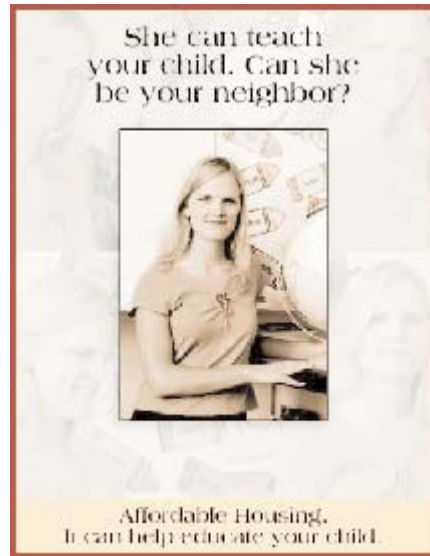
When People Live In The Community They Serve, Everyone Benefits

Affordable housing is one of the City's top priorities and is being recognized as one of the most important issues for many communities across the country. In response to this growing concern, the City Council appointed a seven-member commission to look at ways to increase the availability of affordable housing within Sedona.

Sedona's Housing Commissioners, all unpaid volunteers, have been working hard to understand the City's current housing conditions and how they affect the community including employee hiring and retention trends. The Commission is researching programs in other communities and working on a possible menu of incentives and financial options for public and private development. They plan to create a series of informational brochures, posters, a speaker's bureau, and other regional educational material.

Several concepts the commission are considering includes an ordinance to allow the rental of accessory dwelling units, such as guest homes, and the formation of a Housing Trust Fund for citizens to partner with the City on housing opportunities. A key component of their

work program is to ensure that the design of new affordable housing blends with the existing neighborhood character. They are networking with other Verde Valley communities to share resources and explore partnership possibilities.



Initial research indicates that the people who need affordable housing are not limited to those at the bottom rungs of the income ladder. They include a good majority of middle-income individuals and families. The Commission believes that when artists, teachers, police officers, medical staff, and seniors cannot afford to live here, individuals, businesses, and the community suffer. An adequate stock of affordable housing in Sedona, will ensure that the needed skills and talents are available, that Sedona maintains a rich social environment, and that people spend their money where they live. This will stimulate the economic health and vitality of the community.

The Housing Commission invites you to attend their meetings on the 1st and 3rd Mondays of the month at 5:00 p.m. in the Vultee Conference Room. For more information, visit www.SedonaAZ.gov.

Working To Improve Our Neighborhoods

The Code Enforcement division is directly responsible for the enforcement of city codes, which address such issues as junk vehicles, unsightly properties, high weeds, and outdoor storage of household items visible from beyond property boundaries.

When a complaint is filed, staff inspects the property in question to determine if a violation exists. If a violation is determined, a courtesy warning or "Notice of Violation" is issued to the property owner, explaining what needs to be corrected. A grace period of between 15-30 days is given to correct the violation. Failure to properly resolve the violation may result in a civil citation or other legal action.

Things you can do to help improve your neighborhood:

- Remove inoperative vehicles or store them in an area not visible off site.
- Cut and remove high weeds, overgrown landscaping, and dead trees.
- Remove outdoor storage of tires, car parts, appliances or other household items from off property views.
- Store boats, trailers, campers, or recreational vehicles in your side or rear yard behind a six-foot high wall or fence.

In an attempt to clean up properties before complaints are made, the staff also conducts pro-active inspections of neighborhoods. This process addresses common violations before they become an issue. For more information or to have staff inspect your neighborhood, call 204-7114.

Police Volunteers Help Make Sedona Safe

The Sedona Police Department has initiated a new volunteer program, the Community Police Alliance (CPA). Trained CPA volunteers take on some of the tasks once done by police officers and other Police Department employees. These range from assisting at the Department's front desk, computer scanning of arrest photos, walking patrols in uptown, checking homes while residents are away, and helping at the firearms range. They work a few hours per month to as much as one day per week.

These volunteers act in the role of concerned citizens and not as police officers. They do not take any kind of direct law enforcement action with the possible exception of disabled parking enforcement.

CPA volunteers are a major new source of help for the department and it is an opportunity for citizens to help the department make Sedona safer. Sergeant Kevin Ahern, the department's CPA program coordinator, has been working with a team of citizens since last fall to create the program. According to Sergeant Ahern, "A



L to R: Steve Peake, Katie Hamilton, and John Madzik

variety of volunteer jobs need filling and the department will provide all necessary training."

For an application form, visit www.SedonaAZ.gov and click on the Police Department link or call the department at 282-3100.



Aggressive Driving Safety Program

In January 2005, the Sedona Police Department introduced the newest member of their vehicle fleet. The 2004 Pontiac GTO was purchased through grant funding from the Governor's Office of Highway Safety to assist in keeping the streets and highways of Sedona safe.

The GTO has been involved in cases involving civil and criminal traffic violations, multiple DUI arrests, and the apprehension of subjects transporting methamphetamine and other illegal drugs into the area.

Officers who drive the GTO look for aggressive driving behavior such as excessive speeding, unsafe lane changes, passing in no passing zones, red light violations, and tailgating. The GTO is also used in local and countywide DUI enforcement details.

To report aggressive driving, please contact the Sedona Police Department at 282-3100.



**The City of Sedona now offers
an online Wastewater Bill
payment option in addition to
several other payment methods.
For more information
on this and more,
visit our website at:
www.SedonaAZ.gov**

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